



Shady Notes

Volume 24, Issue 4

May, 2023



President
Phyllis Weidman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

A May Garden is such a beautiful thing. The hostas are coming up along with all the other great garden plants. The azaleas are blooming, spring bulbs like alliums are showing their purple color, peonies are glorious along with all the shades of green from bushes and trees. I even have yellow tree leaves. Our weather has been exceptional with little hail so far. Let's just keep it that way! I remember once on a beautiful May afternoon that the hail was 6 inches deep in my backyard.

The events in April were fun and hopefully you attended something. Maybe you bought a new hosta from one of the Hosta Nurseries, or some new gloves from Overland Hardware or some of the wonderful treats from Laughing Bear Bakery. Vendors Day was a fun and very successful event thanks to Jolly Ann and all her planning.

Lots of planning goes into work day at the Missouri Botanical Garden as well, but it is always fun. Getting dirty with fellow hosta crazy people is a great way to get to know each other. You should all know that the hostas that were reduced in size or dug totally are given to us to sell at the Plant Sale on May 20-21. The Garden is very generous with the Society and we in turn use the money to buy new hostas for the area plus other items needed, like chemicals to prevent Southern Blight or a part of a new sprinkler system. This a wonderful way of helping the St. Louis community and the Missouri Botanical Garden. Thanks goes to all the people who worked to make work day possible.

I hope to see you at the Plant Sale, May 20-21 buying hostas for your garden. Details are in the following newsletter.

Phyllis

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 20-21	Plant Sale 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Missouri Botanical Garden Set up May 19, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
June 4	Garden Walk with speaker Annie Kuhn “Floral Bouquets using Hosta Foliage” 2:00 PM, Home of Janelle Criscione
June 7-10	AHS National Convention Ames, Iowa
June 18	Garden Walk with beekeeper Mike Wagner 2:00 PM, Home of Martha LaFata 433 Edgar Road, Webster Groves, MO 63119
July 13-15	Midwest Regional Hosta Convention Rochester, MN
July 16	Members Plant Auction 2:00 PM, MOBot CBEC, Room 125 4651 Shaw, St. Louis, MO 63110
August 20	Garden Walk 2:00 PM, Hostas on the Bluff 1601 Pleasantview Dr., Fairview Heights, IL 62208
September 17	Garden Walk TBD
October 15	Meeting with Speaker TBD
November	Board Meeting Time and location TBD
December	Holiday Party Home of Melinda Ligon - Time and location TBD

IT'S TIME! - Dig, Divide, Donate!

St. Louis Hosta Society Plant Sale

Missouri Botanical Garden, JCTVC room

Set-up Friday May 19 – 5:00 PM until we are done
Sale May 20 and 21- 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

At last, we have arrived at the most beautiful two months of the gardening year – May and June. The hostas have almost all broken free from their winter sleep and are rapidly unfurling their leaves. May is glorious. All those beautiful plants in fresh greens, blues and golds. No pesty little insects or worms have taken a bite.

Time to take stock of your garden. I heard many a whine (mine included) at the Vendor Day event about plants that did not make it through the winter. Hostas that have overwintered in pots in the past rotted or were heaved out of the soil. Hostas planted in the ground last fall didn't fare very well, some diminished in size, others just gone. Well-established shrubs, especially nandinas and hydrangeas, perished. Azaleas lack vigor and have sparser bloom if any. As a whole the winter temperatures were on the mild side. So, what happened? The consensus seems to be that there was too much fluctuation – a warm stretch followed by plunging temperatures. Soils warmed, plants awoke, buds started to swell only to be slapped with freezing temperatures.

Do not distress. Treat those holes as opportunities to try new plants, new cultivars. May is the time of our annual plant sale. For a successful sale, the Society needs your donations and your help. Dig and pot now while the weather is mild and the hostas are emerging from their winter sleep. Mini and large hostas are always in demand. Any kind of variegated hosta sells well. The sales room is small, so please no trees or shrubs. Please keep in mind that monies from this sale and the member auction in July pay the costs associated with meeting room rental, speakers, the website, the newsletter publication and many more events held throughout the year.

Construction is mostly complete at the Missouri Botanical Garden so our sale will return there. Set up is Friday night, May 19, from 5:00 to 10:00 pm. There will be a drop off area on the loading dock on the west end of the new



H. 'Mike Shadrack'



H. 'Viking Ship'



H. 'Strawberry Banana Smoothie'



building. A sign saying "Hosta Drop Off" will designate the spot. Members will then price the donations and move them into the selling space. We could use wagons or such to move them. Let chairpersons, Barb Moreland or Phyllis Weidman, know if you are bringing a wagon.

Plants can be dropped off ahead of time at any of the following member's homes. Just call to make arrangements and obtain directions.

Barb Moreland – 433 S. Maple Ave., Webster Groves MO 63119

314-961-4191 or bmore433@aol.com

Phyllis Weidman – 508 Pointe Essex Ct, Kirkwood MO

314-630-9036 or pow1031@gmail.com

The Plant Sale will be held on May 20 and 21, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm both days. Location of the sale is in the JCTVC Combined Meeting Space in the main building of the Missouri Botanical Garden. This area is the two small rooms around the corner from the ticketing desk. The society will put a table at the corner to let people know where we are. There will be an in-door and an out-door hoping to better move the traffic through the room. The payment table will be outside the room by the out-door.

Workers are needed to help set up, price plants for sale and man the sales tables throughout the day. Some members have signed up for certain times, but the society would love to have all the help possible. Donate an hour or two of your time to spread the word about that great plant the hosta. If you haven't already done so, contact Chairwoman Barb Moreland and tell her "Yes, I can help."



WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Joyce Underwood of Chesterfield, MO

It is exciting to have you as a new member in our society. Make sure to mark your calendar for the Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Sale. Volunteer to work an hour or two. This is a perfect time for all members, new or old timers, to sit and chat and get to know one another.

April means Vendor Day



Melissa Byrd and Mary Westerhaus check out the plants being sold by Denny Ricketts of **Avalon Acres**. Denny comes all the way from Effingham, Ill. with a wide assortment of fine hostas.



Betty Shew creates beautiful paper fiber art work from hand-crafted molds. Many of her designs are made using shady garden plants such as delicate ferns, brunaria and lily of the valley. Her husband **John** is an illustrator.



Gregg Wesche of **Overland Hardware** chats with Jolly Ann Whitener. Gregg brought garden plants and all the supplies needed to get your garden in shape.



Hostas on the Bluff was a very, very popular shopping venue. Whether you prefer large or small, solid or variegated, one was available. People were ready to get their hands in the dirt.



Jolly Ann checks out the unique jewelry created by artesian **Connie Copley of ConArtist Jewelry**. **Connie** creates pins, necklaces and bracelets using Bakelite, Celluloid, and Lucite.



Kalen McAllister of Laughing Bear Bakery shares a laugh with a customer checking out the assortment of pies, cookies, muffins and Bear Candy.



The vendors were quite willing to share their vast gardening knowledge. Denny Ricketts has been a participant for many years. The society is quite appreciative of his willingness to come so far.



The crowd massed around the sales tables demonstrates the continuing popularity of the hosta. No matter how full our gardens are there always seems to be room for one more.



Lynn Teller and Phyllis Weidman manned the information table. They answered questions and accepted new member forms. Events such as this cannot happen without the help of our members. Thanks to all who supported our Vendors.



Hostas are truly the "friendship plant." Members Spence and Jan Sorenson talk with Pam Wolkowitz about their futures. All are long time society members who will soon be leaving Missouri. Mary Lou Farrow, a former member, catches up with Dave Poos.

Jolly Ann Whitener, take a bow. Thanks for organizing this fun event.

Dig, Divide and Donate

Right now as we are bidding winter adieu, hosta pips have broken ground and their leaves are starting to unfurl. Stroll through your garden and note which plants might be divided, potted and donated to the upcoming May hosta sale or the member auction held in July. Look for side shoots that can easily be removed. If each of us would take a moment to donate a couple of our babies, both the sale and auction would be outstanding events filled with a wide variety of plants. If you need help digging, give Phyllis a call and she will arrange a digging crew to help you.

April Work Day at the Missouri Botanical Garden

The work crew arrived at 8:00 am., perky and ready to tackle any task society president Phyllis Weidman assigned. The weatherman had threatened spotty showers and overcast skies, but happily he was wrong. It was a beautiful spring day. There were many tasks to be done – dividing overgrown hosta, fertilizing, spreading slug control pellets, removing crab tree suckers, easing mulch away from the crowns of plants, pruning and weeding. Hostas do not usually need to be divided unless they outgrow their space or you wish to donate a piece to friends or your local society. However, the Garden prefers that their plants do not touch one another. Thus, one of the major tasks is to divide specific plants. Divisions are given to our society for our annual sale on May 20. Some of the monies from the sale return to MOBot in the form of donations for new plants and other items on their wish list.



Melinda Ligon points out the next hosta to be divided to her digging crew partner. Misshaped or overly large hostas were divided. The Garden prefers that there be space between plants.



Work Day chairwoman Phyllis Weidman had created a list of tasks to be done in each bed. Dave Poos was part of a dig and divide crew. He came dressed for the job.



Darmon Williams is the MOBot staff member in charge of the hosta beds. He was on hand to help direct activities, supply tools and laugh at our silly jokes.



Phil and Karen Chancellor worked together in another bed, first digging and dividing, then fertilizing, weeding and spreading slug bait – all the tasks we each do in our own gardens.



Once dug, plant divisions were carried to the potting station manned by Phyllis Weidman and Janelle Criscione. These plants will be stored by MOBot until our May 20 sale.



Barb Moreland spent the morning on her hands and knees removing excessive mulch and pulling tree sprouts.



Jeanne Yochim has a long way to go clipping the suckers growing from the roots of this crab.



Jim Yochim tackles the unenviable task of coaxing this overgrown shrub back into its own space.



Mike Schmitt carries an arm load of prunings to the recycle bin.



Your editor caught David Birenbaum taking a donut break. Honest folks, he really did do a lot of work with a shovel. He earned that donut.



The crew: Dave and Joan Poos, Dave Birenbaum, Jeanne and Jim Yochim, Mike Schmitt, Karen Chancellor, Darmon Williams, Janelle Criscione, Phil Chancellor, Phyllis Weidman, Barb Moreland and Melinda Ligon. Thanks to you all!!!

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

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St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

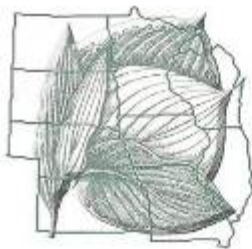
Contact: David Birenbaum
209 Brook Lane
O'Fallon, MO 63368
d.birenbaum@sbcglobal.net

Dues: \$7 per year, \$18 for three years
Family or Individual

Meetings held at **The Des Peres Lodge, 1050 Des Peres Road, Des Peres, MO 63130** (near I270 and Manchester Rd) unless otherwise noted.

Visit our Web site: www.stlhosta.org

Visit us on Facebook, St. Louis Hosta Society



Midwest Regional Hosta Society

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society represents Region 5 of the American Hosta Society that includes 9 states.

Membership in the society is \$20.00 for 2 years, which includes two issues per year of the newsletter.

Please mail a check made payable to **MRHS** to:

Barbara Schroeder,
Treasurer
1819 Coventry Dr.
Champaign, IL 61822

along with Name, Address, phone, and email (Most correspondence is by email). For questions email MRHS.Hosta@gmail.com.



AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

Members receive three issues per year of The Hosta Journal, which includes color photographs of hostas, reports on national conventions, scientific information concerning current research pertaining to hostas, and advertisements of interest to hosta families.

Membership checks should be made out to "AHS," and mailed to:

Barry Ankney, AHS Membership Secretary
1104 Oxford Ct
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

Dues for one year are \$30 for an individual and \$34 for a family. For more information, visit the AHS website: <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/>